

IN THE CLAIMS:

The status and content of each claim follows.

1-8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) A method for accessing a message in a conditional access system, the method comprising:

~~receiving authorization information~~ a rights message with a ~~first conditional access receiver~~ set top box, wherein said rights message individually conveys access rights to said set top box for at least one functional unit in said set top box;

~~generating~~ receiving a first ~~an~~ authorization message with said set top box, wherein said authorization message is transmitted to a plurality of separate set top boxes and specifies required rights for use of a separately received ~~content~~ software object by ~~[[a]]~~ said plurality of set top ~~receivers~~ box;

~~performing a first determination~~ determining whether said ~~to test if a first~~ set top ~~receiver~~ box is authorized to access the separately received ~~content~~ software object by comparing said access rights conveyed to said set top box in said rights message with said required rights specified by said first authorization message; and

~~receiving authorization information with a second conditional access receiver;~~

~~performing a second determination to test if a second set top receiver is authorized to access the separately received content object;~~

blocking access to the separately received ~~content~~ software object by the ~~first~~ set top ~~receiver~~ box as a function of determining ~~if whether~~ the ~~first~~ set top ~~receiver~~ box is authorized to access the separately received software object; and

~~blocking access to the separately received content object by the second set top receiver as a function of determining if the second set top receiver is authorized.~~

10. (currently amended) The method for accessing a message in a conditional access system as recited in claim 9, wherein blocking access to the separately received software content object comprises ignoring a portion of a datastream associated with the separately received software content object.

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) The method for accessing a message in a conditional access system as recited in claim 9, wherein the separately received software content object comprises a software program.

13-26. (cancelled)

27. (currently amended) The method for accessing a message in a conditional access system as recited in claim 9, wherein the separately received software content object comprises video content.

28. (currently amended) The method for accessing a message in a conditional access system as recited in claim 9, wherein the separately received software content object comprises audio content.

29. (currently amended) The method for accessing a message in a conditional access systems as recited in claim 9, wherein the separately received software ~~content~~ object comprises firmware.